

REMARKS

Restriction Requirement

Applicants hereby elect Group VIII, claim 36 drawn to a method of screening for compound that inhibits virus binding and entry to target cells, without traverse.

Status of the claims

Claims 1-40 are pending and are subject to restriction. Claim 36 is elected. Claims 1-35 are canceled. Claims 37-40 are amended. No new matter is added to these amended claims.

Claim amendments

Claims 37-40 are amended to correct their dependency such that these claims correctly depend from independent claim 36. The instant invention is directed to a rapid and high-throughput non-radioactive method to detect and quantitate virus entry into a cell. Independent claim 36 is drawn to a method of screening for compound that inhibits virus binding and entry to target cell. Such a method comprises the steps of attaching an enzyme to the C-terminal end of a viral envelope protein, thereby creating an envelope-enzyme fusion protein. Virus particles comprising the fusion protein and wild type viral envelope protein are then generated. These virus particles are used to infect target cells in the presence or absence of the compound. Further, the activities of the enzyme in the infected cells are measured, where decreased enzyme activities in the presence

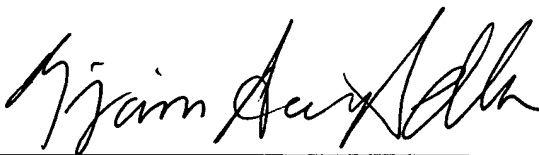
of the compound indicates that the compound inhibits virus binding and entry to the target cells mediated by the wild type viral envelope protein.

The amended dependent claims limit the enzyme in the envelope-enzyme fusion protein to luciferase (claim 37); the envelope protein in the fusion protein to the envelope protein of murine leukemia virus (claim 38); the wild type envelope protein to the envelope protein of a virus selected from the group consisting of murine leukemia virus, human immunodeficiency virus, retrovirus, Vesicular Stomatitis virus, Arenaviruses, Hanta virus, Ebola virus and Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis virus (claim 39); and measurement of the enzyme activities to be carried out in 96-well plate (claim 40). All the elements of the dependent and independent claims are supported by the specification of the instant invention. Applicant submits that no new matter is added in amended claims 37-40 and that amended claims 37-40 properly belong to Group VIII. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests examination of claims 36-40 in Group VIII.

Applicant believes that no fees are due, however, should this be in error, please debit Deposit Account No. 07-1185 on which the undersigned is allowed to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

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ADLER & ASSOCIATES
8011 Candle Lane
Houston, Texas 77071
Tel: (713) 270-5391
Fax: (713) 270-5361
BADLER1@houston.rr.com


Benjamin Aaron Adler, J.D., Ph.D.
Registration No. 35,423
Counsel for Applicant